

place and home to all cultures ever since. Santa Fe, to this day, continues to be a government, cultural, religious, and social center. Throughout its history, it has attracted settlers, traders, artists, historians, and tourists, all coming to see what Santa Fe and the surrounding communities have to offer.

The Santa Fe area has long been home to native peoples, centuries prior to European incursions. In fact, some of the tribal communities in the area today have been there for over one thousand years. Arriving centuries later, though still over 400 years ago, the Spanish settlers were integral to the European exploration and settlement of this continent. This legislation honors both the tribal communities and Spanish settlers.

Throughout the city are structures of great historical importance. Built in the 17th Century, the Palace of the Governors was the seat of government for generations and is now the oldest continuously used public building in the United States. It currently serves as the State's history museum, ensuring that current and future generations will be able to learn about the events that shaped New Mexico's past, present, and future.

The creation of the commemorative coin will help in the preparation and celebration of this monumental quadricentennial. The proceeds from the sale of the gold five dollar and silver one dollar coins will be split, with half going towards the 400th Anniversary Committee to support programs to promote the understanding of Santa Fe and its legacies. The rest will go to the Department of Interior to ensure the preservation of Santa Fe, enhance national and international programs, and improve archaeological research activities throughout the area. These are especially important as we continue to learn more about all of the communities that have settled in the area for centuries.

I want to take a moment to thank Senators JEFF BINGAMAN and PETE DOMENICI who are working on this in the Senate, as well as co-sponsors Representatives HEATHER WILSON and STEVE PEARCE for their support here in the House. We must all work to preserve the legacy of America's first European communities and the people who came long before, and I am proud the entire delegation has joined together to mark this remarkable milestone.

For the rich blend of cultures steeped in centuries of heritage, it is only fitting that the Congress recognize the 400th anniversary of the Nation's oldest capital originally known as La Villa Real de la Santa Fe de San Francisco de Asis. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation.

IN MEMORY OF HENRY PRYOR

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Henry Pryor of Camden, Arkansas, who passed away December 9, 2007, at the age of 50.

Henry Pryor was a consummate professional who made a positive impact on the people and businesses he worked with throughout his life, which was abruptly and sadly cut short

due to a tragic car accident. His career in banking took him across the United States and he eventually landed in Camden, Arkansas, where he served as Executive Vice President of Heartland Community Bank of Camden, and Senior Vice President of Farmers Bank and Trust of Camden.

Although Henry Pryor had a career in business, his calling and real passion was in community development. The City of Camden and its residents were extremely fortunate to gain from his selfless gifts of time and energy to make his community a better place to live. As a member of the Ouachita County Historical Society, he was instrumental in preserving historic properties in Camden such as the Clifton-Greening Street Historic District. He took a keen interest in seeing businesses flourish throughout Camden and Ouachita County through his service as president of the Camden Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he was a graduate of the Leadership Camden area program and he served on numerous area boards and commissions. As a local community leader, he also recognized the vast importance of regional festivals and the impact they had on residents and businesses, through his proud service as chairman of the Annual Camden Daffodil Festival.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife of 21 years, Angela Woodward Pryor of Camden, Arkansas, and to his numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

Henry Pryor will be missed by his family, his church, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. His focus on the community and his spirit of service to others and to his community will never be forgotten. I will continue to keep his family in my deepest thoughts and prayers.

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE SULLIVAN BROTHERS' AWARD OF VALOR

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three members of the Decorah, Iowa Police Department, Chief Tom Courtney, Captain Warren Leeps, and Officer Sara Stinson, and Volunteer Decorah Firefighter Jeff Ode, as recipients of The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor for saving another's life by risking their own.

The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor Program was established in 1977 to recognize peace officers and firefighters, who while serving in an official capacity, distinguished themselves by performing a heroic act while fully aware of a threat to his/her personal safety. The strict nomination process includes background investigations, and the final determination is made by the Governor of Iowa.

In January of 2007, Olive Sims crashed her car into a ditch along Division Street in Decorah. Chief Courtney, Captain Leeps, Officer Stinson and Volunteer Firefighter Ode responded to the report and quickly traveled to the scene. Upon their arrival, they discovered the engine compartment of the vehicle was engulfed in flames and that Olive was still inside. Putting their own lives in danger, they acted quickly to remove Olive from the vehicle

before the fire department arrived and just before the passenger compartment of the car was fully consumed by fire.

Their bravery goes above and beyond what we are asked of as citizens of this country. Their courage illustrates the compassion of Iowans willing to risk their own lives for a neighbor in need. For this I offer them my utmost congratulations and thanks.

I commend Chief Tom Courtney, Captain Warren Leeps, Officer Sara Stinson and Volunteer Firefighter Jeff Ode for their bravery. I am honored to represent each of them in Congress and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY RYAN WALSH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary R. Walsh, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary R. Walsh for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

UNITED STATES-CUBA CULTURAL EXCHANGE LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH—ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the U.S.-Cuba Cultural Exchange's letter to President Bush and to enter into the RECORD a copy of their letter.

On November 27, 2007, the U.S.-Cuba Cultural Exchange sent a letter to President Bush that expressed their desire to establish relations with Cuban artists and urged him to take steps to normalize interaction with Cuba. The letter was signed by several artists including Harry Belafonte, Danny Glover, Carlos Santana, and Sean Penn. As of December 11, 2007, the letter has been signed by one thousand four hundred and twelve people.

I applaud the U.S.-Cuba Cultural Exchange for urging President Bush to change the U.S. policy towards Cuba and for raising awareness about how the policy impacts the artist community. Further, I support their movement, which would allow people from both countries to exchange and experience performing and literary arts.